

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652 N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM MZ
SUBJECT: ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT: MOZAMBIQUE

REF: (A) STATE 024266: (B) STATE 022819

1. MABASSADOR AND DCM MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHIASSANO AND MINISTRY'S AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR SHAFURDINE KHAN ON FEBRUARY 15. IN COURSE MULTI-PURPOSE MEETING AMBASSADOR HANDED CHIASSANO A COPY OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT PREPARED ON MOZAMBIQUE AND EXPLAINED BACKGROUND TO REPORT.

2. CHIASSANO WAS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN THE REPORT, QUICKLY GLANCED THROUGH IT, SAID HE WOULD READ

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IT CAREFULLY. NOTING REFERENCES TO RE EDUCATION CAMPS, HE SAID THAT THIS WAS A TOPIC INVARIABLY RAISED BY WESTERN JOURNALISTS. HE WAS APOLOGETIC ABOUT THE CAMPS, BUT WAS DEFENSIVE. HE SAID THAT THE PURPOSE OF CAMPS WAS NOT PRIMARILY TO INDOCTRINATE PEOPLE, AS WAS NOTED IN THE REPORT BUT RATHER TO REMOVE TEMPORARILY FROM SOCIETY HARMFUL OR CORRUPTING

ELEMENTS.

3. AS REGARDS PUBLIC TRIALS, HE SAID THAT WE SHOULD WAIT THREE OF FOUR MONTHS WHEN THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTED TO ISSUE SOME NEW REGULATIONS REGARDING JUDICIAL PROCEDURES.

4. CONCLUDING CHISSANO SAID THAT WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT MOZAMBIQUE IS STILL A NEW GOVERNMENT. GIVEN OPPOSITION THAT SURFACE DURING ITS FIRST MONTHS. THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO TAKE CERTAIN MEASURES TO ENSURE STABILITY AND THE MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER. HE SAID MOZAMBIQUE MUST HAVE TIME TO EGT ON TOP OF THESE MATTERS. HE SAID MOZAMBIQUE WAS NOT LIKE SOME OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES THAT HAD BEEN IN POWER FOR SOME YEARS AND COULD JUSTIFIABLY BE CRITICIZED FOR ITS HUMAN RIGHTS DEFICIENCIES.

5. BEFORE TURNING TO ANOTHER SUBJECT, THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THE EMBASSY HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF KEEPING WASHINGTON APPRAISED OF MOZAMBIQUES PERFORMANCE WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND HOPED THERE WOULD BE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES FROM TIME TO TIME WITH THE MINISTER OR OTHER OFFICIALS TO ENSURE THAT THE EMBASSY'S REPORTS ARE BALANCED AND FAIR. BY WAY OF EXAMPLE, THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT NO EMBOFF HAD VISITED

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A RE EDUCATION CAMP AND HOPED THAT THIS MIGHT SOON BE POSSIBLE.

6. COMMENT. BELIEVE SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT TO CHISSANO SERVED THE VERY USEFUL PURPOSE OF REMINDING MOZAMBIQUE OF US (AND INTERNATIONAL) CONCERN OVER REPORTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFICIENCIES IN MOZAMBIQUE. THE AMBASSADOR COMMENT THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME GPRM OBSERVATIONS SEEMED TO IMPRESS CHISSANO THAT WE WANTED TO BE FAIR. WE BELIEVE THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE CHISSANO WILL WANT TO DISCUSS REPORT FURTHER WITH US.

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